

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 9 and 11, amend claims 1-8, 10, 12, 14-15, and add new claims 17-21 in the following manner. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~device for stabilizing and/or positioning a medical tool in a body cavity~~ medical instrument comprising:

an elongated tubular structure (1) with an end for insertion in a body cavity;

at least one inflatable balloon (3, 4) connected to at least one capillary tube (5) and inflatable by pressing a fluid and/or gas into said tube,

an atomic force microscope; and

a means (7) for receiving a ~~medical tool~~ said atomic force microscope.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ instrument of claim 1, wherein said at least one balloon (3, 4) is arranged at a distance from said atomic force microscope ~~medical tool~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The instrument ~~device~~ of ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein said elongated tubular structure (1) further comprises at least one surface opening (2) and said at least one inflatable balloon (3, 4) is located at said at least one surface opening (2), ~~preferably at least two surface openings (2) and at least two inflatable balloons (3, 4)~~

~~located at said surface openings (2), more preferably at least four surface openings (2) and at least four inflatable balloons (3, 4) located at said surface openings (2).~~

4. (Currently Amended) The instrument device of claim 3, further comprising several surface openings, wherein said surface openings (2) are uniformly distributed along a circumference of said elongated tubular structure (1) and the centres of all surface openings (2) are at equal distance from the end of the elongated tubular structure (1) to be inserted in the body cavity.

5. (Currently Amended) The instrument of ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ 4, wherein said means (7) for receiving a ~~medical tool~~ said atomic force microscope is a recess having a polygonal profile.

6. (Currently Amended) The instrument device of ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ 5, wherein said elongated tubular structure (1) further comprises a means (6) for forcing the balloons to expand outside said elongated tubular structure (1).

7. (Currently Amended) The instrument device of claim 6, wherein said means (6) for forcing the balloons to expand outside said elongated tubular structure (1) is a ring.

8. (Currently Amended) The instrument device of ~~any of~~ claims 6 ~~or~~ 7, wherein said capillary tubes ~~(5)~~ are fixed to said means ~~(6)~~ for forcing the balloons to expand outside said elongated tubular structure ~~(1)~~.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The instrument device of ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ 9, wherein said elongated tubular structure ~~(1)~~ comprises a first part and a second part which are connected by a connecting means ~~(9)~~.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method for stabilising and/or positioning an atomic force microscope ~~a medical tool~~ in a body cavity comprising the steps of:

[I]introducing a device comprising said atomic force microscope ~~a medical tool~~ and at least one inflatable balloon arranged in a distance from said atomic force microscope in a body cavity,

inflating said at least one balloon with a liquid and/or gas until said at least one inflated balloon contacts an inner surface of the body cavity and said atomic force microscope ~~the medical tool~~ is stabilised and/or positioned.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one inflatable balloon is inflated by a liquid, preferably a physiological liquid.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any of~~ claims 12 ~~or~~ 13, wherein said device comprises at least two balloons, preferably at least four balloons.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any of~~ claims 12 ~~to~~ 14, wherein said body cavity is a joint.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the joint is the knee joint.

17. (New) The instrument of claim 3, wherein said elongated tubular structure comprises at least two surface openings and at least two inflatable balloons located at said surface openings.

18. (New) The instrument of claim 3, wherein said elongated tubular structure comprises at least four surface openings and at least four inflatable balloons located at said surface openings.

19. (New) The instrument of claim 1 comprising several balloons, wherein said balloons are inflatable by different pressures.

20. (New) The method of claim 14 wherein said device comprises at least four balloons.

21. (New) A medical instrument comprising:
an elongated tubular structure with an end for insertion in a body cavity;
at least one inflatable balloon connected to at least one capillary tube and inflatable by pressing a fluid and/or gas into said tube, and
an atomic force microscope at said end of said tubular structure.